

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AF-10 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 /172 W

----- 124679

R 221730 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8204

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONSUL NASSAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0426

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, XL, XA

SUBJECT: CARIFTA AND COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN MISSION DISCUSS
ASSOCIATION WITH EEC

SUMMARY: COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN MISSION MET WITH REPRESENTA-
TIVITES OF COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES MARCH 19 IN MOVE
TOWARD POSSIBLE UNIFIED APPROACH ON FORM OF ASSOCIATION WITH
ENLARGED EEC. MEETING ONLY EXPLORATORY, HOWEVER, AS CARIBBEAN
AND AFRICAN ASSOCIABLES STILL IN PROCESS OF REACHING RESPECTIVE
REGIONAL COMMON POSITIONS. DURING LOCAL PRESS INTERVIEW,
MISSION LEADER DISCUSSED APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF AFRICAN STANCE. FORMAL CARIBBEAN- AFRICAN CONSULTATIONS
MIGHT COMMENCE LATE THIS SPRING AT EARLIEST. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN MISSION ARRIVED GEORGETOWN MARCH 18 TO
APPRISE CARIBBEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (CARIFTA) COUNTRIES
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OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH TRADE MINISTERS MEETING IN LAGOS FEBRUARY 16 ON ASSOCIATION WITH ENLARGED EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. DELEGATION LED BY EAST AFRICAN MINISTER FOR COMMON MARKET AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, DR. ROBERT OUKO OF KENYA.ETING OF AFRICAN NATIONS CALLED BY COMMON-
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WEALTH SECRETARIAT CANCELLED BECAUSE THEY DID NOT FEEL READY TO PROCEED, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY HAD NOT HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR CARIBBEAN COUNTERPARTS. THIS ALSO REASON FOR DROPPING EEC ISSUE FROM AGENDA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA IN ACCRA LAST MONTH. AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH HOPED TO WORK OUT POSITION AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN NARIBOI APRIL 5 AND 6 WHEN HIS MISSION WULD REPORT ON VISIT TO CARIBBEAN AND RWANDA, WHERE IT WOULD HOLD SIMILAR TALKS WITH AFRICAN ASSOCIATES. FIRST MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING, ORGANIZED BY OAU , HE CONTINUED, WOULD TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH IN ABIDJAN WHERE EEC ISSUE WOULD FEATURE " VERY PROMINENTLY INDEED". RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE MADE AT THAT MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION BY ADDIS ABBA MEETING OF AFRICAN HEADS (OF STATE) IN MAY. DR. OUKO INDICATED NO FIXED DATE FOR COMMENCEMENT FORMAL AFRICAN- CARIBBEAN CONSULTATION ON EEC QUESTION, BUT THOUGHT THIS COULD TAKE PLACE AFTER ADDIS ABBA SUMMIT OR YAOUNDE CONFERENCE EARLIER IN MAY.

5. ASKED WHETHER PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR AUGUST 1 DEADLINE FOR START OF TALKS WITH EEC IN BRUSSELS, DR. OUKO REPLIED: " THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ASSOCIATION WITH EEC IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IF WE FIND SO-CALLED AUGUST 1 DEADLINE TOO EARLY, WE WILL SAY SO. I AM NOT SAYING WE SHALL NOT ATTEND ON AUGUST 1. BUT FROM DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD, WE HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THESE TALKS ARE SO CRUCIAL THAT WE REGARD THE DEADLINE AS SECONDARY IMPORTANCE."

6. COMMENT: CARIFTA SENT EXPLORATORY MISSION TO EAST
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GEORGE00426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaiclg.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971217
Subject: CARIFTA AND COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN MISSION DISCUSS ASSOCIATION WITH EEC
TAGS: EGEN, XA, XL, EEC
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BRIDGETOWN
KINGSTON
MULTIPLE
PORT OF SPAIN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

